

25th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY SYSTEMS

APRIL 24-27, 2006

Marriott Renaissance, Austin, Texas

Technical Papers

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation

- Why Lab Accreditations an Essential Element of DQS - 8:30 AM
- Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories - Quality System - 9:00 AM
- Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories - PT and On-sites - 9:30 AM

TECHNICAL SESSION: Environmental Laboratory Accreditation

There is only one paper submitted for this session.

A National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Standard: The Future is Here

Jerry Parr, INELA

The Institute for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (INELA) is a consensus standards organization whose mission is to foster the generation of environmental laboratory data of known and documented quality through the development of performance standards for the accreditation of environmental laboratories and other organizations directly involved in the environmental sampling and measurement process. INELA's vision is a true national accreditation program, whereby all entities involved in the generation of environmental measurement data within the United States are accredited to one uniform, rigorous, and robust program that has been implemented consistently nationwide and focuses on the technical competence of the entity pursuing accreditation. These two sessions will first describe how a laboratory accreditation program is an essential and necessary component for ensuring environmental data quality, then present in detail the new draft consensus standards that have recently been published by INELA and conclude with INELA's vision of how the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can participate in this process. The INELA standards were developed through an open, balanced, consensus process involving the private sector (laboratories, data users etc.) and representatives from federal and state governments.

Agenda

Session 1

1. Why Laboratory Accreditation is an Essential Element of a Data Quality System
2. Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories: Quality System
3. Accreditation Requirements for Laboratories: Proficiency Testing and On-site Assessments

Session 2

4. Requirements for an Accreditation Body
5. Accreditation Requirements for Organizations Performing Field Measurements and Sampling
6. Role of the USEPA in a National Accreditation Program